

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 24, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-150)

TO: Mickey Carter  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Dowton Ellis Creek Riparian Fence

**Project No:** 1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 4.12 Filter Strips, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.10 Access Fencing

**Location:** Custer County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 3,000 feet of jack post and pole fence along Ellis Creek, tributary to the Salmon River, in Custer County, Idaho. The proposed fence will meet or exceed BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback except in areas where BPA has agreed to allow a lesser set back. In an effort to further reduce impacts to the stream, a livestock scale will be relocated. The goal of this project is to enhance salmon and steelhead rearing and migration habitat through exclusion fencing.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (June 17, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'Tresses, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on these species. The area proposed for construction is a cultivated field that is used primarily for hay and pasture production. Impacts associated with the fence construction will create less of an impact in terms of noise and human disturbance than current farming practices. Bald eagle, gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity. Since the site is used primarily for farming the ground has been disturbed annually, which does not lend itself to the presence of Ute ladies'Tresses. ESA listed fish may be present in the project vicinity but will not be affected because the project does not involve instream work and no ground disturbing activities are planned. In addition, all work will take place a considerable distance from the streambanks. The relocation of the scale will have no effect on ESA-listed species (NOAA Fisheries June 14, 2004; USFWS June 14, 2004).

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service

(Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Dowton Ellis Creek Riparian Fence project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that an archaeological survey was needed. Although the proposed project does not involve any ground disturbing activities (and therefore no effect to cultural and/or historic resources is expected), NRCS staff conducted a ground survey of the site. No cultural and/or historic resources were discovered as a result of that survey. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Dowton Ellis Creek Riparian Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Dowton Ellis Creek Riparian Fence project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Custer Soil and Water Conservation District holds monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed. A tour of the project took place in September 2002 and again in May 2004 with BPA, NOAA Fisheries and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program. In addition, the Idaho Department of Agriculture has reviewed this project to ensure consistency with State requirements.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 6-24-04

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6-25-04

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist  
Cultural Resource Project Review Status, January 7, 2003

cc: (w/o attachments)  
Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District